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Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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Dockets Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Reference: RSPA-99-6283-2

Dear Madame or Sir:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is responding to a recent Federal Register (FR) notice on Hazardous Materials Regulations; Compatibility With the Regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (64 FR 72633) issued by the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA). The FR published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking in which RSPA proposes to amend the Hazardous Materials Regulations pertaining to the transportation of radioactive materials. The amendment will be based on recent changes contained in the International Atomic Energy Agency publication ST- 1 on transportation of radioactive materials. RSPA has requested that comments be submitted by March 29, 2000. We have begun our review of the FR notice.

DOE is concerned about the due date for the comments. We are a large agency that must communicate with a sizeable transportation community. To gather comments we must make the FR notice, along with ST- 1, available to a group of 1 00- 130 packaging and transportation professionals. It is easy to provide the FR notice itself. Unfortunately, we do not have a sufficient number of copies of ST- 1, nor is the complete document available electronically.

As a result we are exploring two approaches for obtaining the information in ST- 1: 1) purchasing a license to make an electronic copy available on a DOE website, and 2) purchasing a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the interested transportation community. At this point we anticipate that we will need more than a month to complete either approach. This time delay will impede our ability to respond to your notice in a timely fashion.

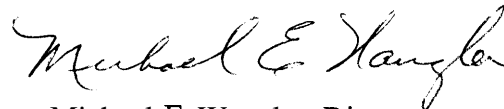
Additionally, incorporation of the requirements of ST-1 into the Hazardous Materials Regulations will have a significant effect on DOE package and transportation activities. Since changes to the Regulations related to exemption values, A, and A₂ values, and uranium hexafluoride packaging potentially have significant economical and operational impacts on our packaging and transportation activities, we need sufficient time to respond to your notice.



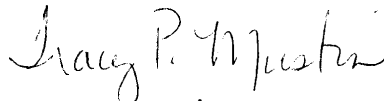
Consequently, the DOE is requesting an extension of the comment due date. We believe that an extension of 90 days will provide us with the additional time that we need to distribute the notice, gather and compile information from our users and submit our comments to you. We ask your favorable consideration of our request.

If you need further information about this request, please contact either M. Wangler (301-903-5078) or L. Blalock (301-903-7273).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael E. Wangler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael E. Wangler, Director
Package Approval and Safety Program
Office of Environmental Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tracy P. Mustin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" being the most prominent.

Tracy P. Mustin, Director
Office of Transportation
Office of Environmental Management

cc:

R. Boyle, RSPA, DOT